



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
P.O. Box 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

Birch Stewart Kolasch & Birch  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-747

JUL 13 2004

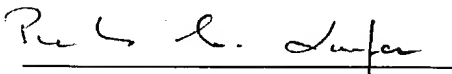
In re Application of: Masashi Shiomi et al. )  
Application No. 10/003,069 )  
Filed: December 6, 2001 )  
**U.S. Publication No. 2002/0055949** )  
Published: May 9, 2002 )  
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING )  
APPARATUS, COMMUNICATION )  
APPARATUS, INFORMATION )  
PROCESSING TERMINAL, )  
INFORMATION SUPPLYING )  
APPARATUS .... )

**NOTIFICATION OF  
IDENTIFICATION OF PRIOR  
ART IN LATE PROTEST  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.291(a)**

The protest filed March 3, 2004 under 37 C.F.R. §1.291(a) was filed after the May 9, 2002, publication date of the application.

Because the protest was filed after publication of the application it is untimely and it is not being entered in the application file. The original protest is enclosed with this letter and the duplicate copy submitted by the protestor is being destroyed. (MPEP § 1901.06)

If appropriate, Applicant may wish to consider submitting prior art from the protest pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and 37 C.F.R. §1.56 during the prosecution of the application.



Pinchus M. Laufer  
Special Programs Examiner  
Technology Center 2100  
Computer Architecture, Software, and Information Security  
(703) 306-4160

Enc: Protest (4 pages)